



AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION

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TO: APPA Member Utilities
FROM: Bill Becker, Environmental Engineer
SUBJECT: Extension of PCB Disposal Deadline for Capacitors

The Environmental Protection Agency has recently published a final rule extending the deadline for allowing disposal in chemical waste landfills of capacitors filled with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from January 1, 1980 until March 1, 1981 (Federal Register, March 28, 1980, pp. 20473-20475). The extension is effective immediately.

The rule was necessitated by the fact that EPA, in a set of comprehensive PCB regulations published last May, had required high temperature incineration as the only legally acceptable method for disposing of PCB-capacitors after January 1, 1980. However, EPA has yet to approve any of these incinerators for burning PCB-capacitors and the first one is not expected to begin operation until later this year.

EPA had proposed last November to extend the January 1, 1980 deadline until 30 days after the first high temperature incinerator was approved and operating. APPA argued against the proposal on the basis that:

- the agency's scheme would force many utilities to build expensive storage facilities;
- transportation costs to the incinerator (expected in El Dorado, Arkansas) would be exorbitant for many utilities; and
- the risks of an environmental accident would increase if utilities were forced to either store PCB-capacitors on-site or send them to the only available incinerator for disposal.

APPA believes the final rule is reasonable and gave due consideration to our objections. It allows utilities to either store their capacitors, or continue to landfill them in one of the eight currently approved sites in this country (listed below). After March 1, 1981, the deadline may be further extended if the EPA Assistant Administrator determines that (1) adequate incineration capability for PCB-capacitors is not available, (2) incineration of PCB-capacitors interferes with the incineration of liquid PCBs, or (3) "there is other good cause shown."

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Before disposing of capacitors in chemical waste landfills, utilities are now required to pack their PCB-capacitors (both leaking and non-leaking) in Department of Transportation approved drums with some type of absorbent material (such as soil or sawdust).

The following is a list of the eight chemical waste landfill sites approved for the disposal of PCB-capacitors:

1. Newco Chemical Waste Systems, Inc., Niagara Falls, New York (716-285-6944).
2. SCA Chemical Services, Inc., Model City, New York (716-754-8231).
3. Waste Management of Alabama, Inc., Livingston, Alabama (205-652-9529).
4. Casmalia Disposal Site, Santa Barbara, California (805-969-4703).
5. Nuclear Engineering Co., Inc., Louisville, Kentucky (502-426-7160).
6. Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc., Arlington, Oregon (503-223-1912).
7. Wes-Con., Inc., Grand View, Idaho (208-734-7711)
8. Newco Chemical Waste Systems, Inc., Williamsburg, Ohio (513-724-6114).

If you have any questions or desire copies of the final rule and/or the Department of Transportation container specifications, please don't hesitate to contact me.